

Moon Walking

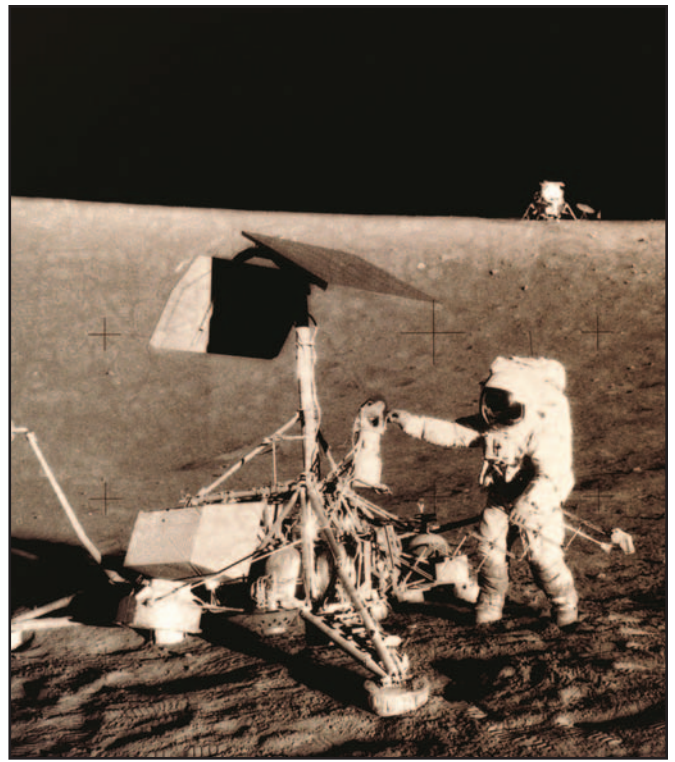
Imagine going on a trip 242,000 miles away. That's what Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, two American astronauts, did on July 20, 1969. They flew all the way to the moon!

Buzz and Neil landed their spacecraft, the *Eagle*, on the moon's surface in a place called the Sea of Tranquility. And then Neil went out for a little walk on the moon. Another astronaut, Michael Collins, flew in a small spacecraft called the *Columbia* 70 miles above the moon and waited for Neil and Buzz.

The moon has no air. Temperatures are extreme—it is very hot in the sun and very cold in the shade! So Neil had to put on a spacesuit to protect him from the hot and cold temperatures. The suit had oxygen for Neil to breathe and a fan to keep his body cool. The visor of his helmet had tiny lamps on the sides because it can be dark in space.

When Neil Armstrong stepped off the *Eagle* that day, he was the first person to leave a footprint on the moon. Buzz and Neil did three experiments and packed up moon dust and rocks to bring back to earth. Then they climbed back into the *Eagle*.

Buzz and Neil took off from the moon in the top half of the *Eagle*. They hooked



Astronaut Pete Conrad walked on the Moon in November 1969.

on to the *Columbia* spacecraft, where Michael was waiting. After Neil and Buzz climbed back into the *Columbia*, the *Eagle* detached from the lunar module and crashed back to the moon's surface where it probably still is today. The three astronauts all flew back to Earth.

The two men stayed on the moon for 21 hours and 36 minutes—not quite a full day.

Two years later, in 1971, Alan Shepard walked on the moon, too. Later that year, astronauts drove on the moon with the Lunar Rover, which had a top speed of 8 miles per hour. It's a good thing they didn't have to drive the Lunar Rover to the moon—it would have taken them 7 years round trip!